

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 5, 10, 12, and 16 to place them in independent form and correct typographical errors, and canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 14, and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 remain pending.

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,834,349 ("*Higurashi*"); rejected claims 4, 9, 11, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Higurashi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,602 ("*Fridrich*"); and objected to claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 for depending upon rejected base claims. The Examiner also indicated claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 contained allowable subject matter.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary states that claim 3 was rejected, but page 11 of the Office Action states that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Applicant assumes that claim 3 was not rejected and that the Office Action Summary contains a typographical error on the status of claim 3.

Further, the Office Action contains numerous statements reflecting apparent assertions concerning the related art and claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is addressed specifically herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any assertion and/or characterization set forth in the Office Action.

**CLAIMS 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 14, AND 15**

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 14, and 15. In the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, however, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 14, and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims at a later time in the present application or another application, such as a continuation application.

**CLAIMS 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, AND 16**

Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 5, 10, 12, and 16 to place them in independent form and correct typographical errors. Further, claim 13 depends upon allowable claim 12. Accordingly, the objection to claims 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, and 16 for depending upon rejected base claims should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

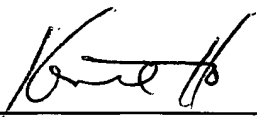
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 6, 2005

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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